

GAIL RESEN

Over the past few years, I have felt driven to create art reflecting simplicity, purity and order. I limit my format to squares and create three dimensional drawings through the manipulation of painted and cut canvas strips.

The series, LIGHTPLAY, is intended to be viewed as groupings of squares, interest emanating not only from the appearance of the individual pieces, the play of light and shadow upon the surface, but also from their interaction. . . the way the eye jumps from one to another, comparing, seeing similarities, noting differences, sensing rhythms and patterns. I explore interlocking relief forms and am excited by the infinite variations that emerge. I use light colors in this series because it enhances the visual strength of the shadows.

Recently, while exploring further development of this relief work, I singled out one of the LIGHTPLAY constructions and began the introduction of color. With particular manipulation of the canvas strips in conjunction with color application I found I could create works with vibrant, visually kinetic activity. Bands of color appear to move up and down and around the surface as the viewer moves about the piece. Surprising patterns emerge. I have titled this series EYEDAZZLERS referencing the extraordinary rugs woven by the Navajos.

Currently, I enjoy working back and forth between the white and color works. One is a study of the influence of light and surface, the other series, a study in form and color interaction. Each series has its own challenges and solutions. Each, I find intellectually and visually stimulating as well as responsive to the poetic and meditative qualities that I desire.

I see my art as being influenced by: the artists and architects of the Bauhaus, particularly Joseph and Annie Albers; also by Luciano Fontana, the relief sculptures of Louise Nevelson, the white paintings of Robert Ryman and my interest in the structure of textiles.